

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KATALIN HORVATH,) 1:05-cv-00041-REC-TAG-HC
Petitioner,)
v.) ORDER FOR PARTIES TO FILE BRIEFS
INS,) ADDRESSING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE
Respondent.) REAL ID ACT OF 2005

Petitioner, currently in the custody of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) and proceeding pro se, has filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. (Doc. 1).

On June 21, 2005, Respondent filed with the Court a document entitled “Respondents’ Notice of Applicability of Public Law 109-13 [The Real ID Act of 2005]” (“the Notice”), pointing out that the Real ID Act of 2005, enacted on May 11, 2005, divests the United States District Court of jurisdiction to hear claims involving a challenge to a final administrative order of removal, deportation, or exclusion. (Doc. 32, Attachment). The Notice contends that Petitioner is challenging “only the final administrative order of removal,” and therefore this Court “must transfer this case to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.” (Id. at p. 2).

The Court is aware of the passage of Public Law 109-13 and of the provisions contained therein. In response to the Real ID Act of 2005, on June 2, 2005, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a “Special Notice” to the district courts in the Ninth Circuit

1 addressing the procedures for determining whether to transfer cases to the Ninth Circuit pursuant
2 to the Real ID Act of 2005. In that Special Notice, the Ninth Circuit suggests that, if, after being
3 given the opportunity, the parties are unwilling to stipulate to a transfer, the district court should
4 allow the parties the opportunity to brief the propriety of such a transfer.

5 Respondent's Notice indicates that Respondent believes that the provisions of the Real
6 ID Act of 2005 are applicable to the instant habeas corpus proceeding. However, the need for
7 such a transfer is not self-evident to the Court at this juncture, and therefore briefing by the
8 parties is required. The plain language of the Real ID Act of 2005 limits the jurisdiction of the
9 district court only in cases involving challenges to a final order of removal, deportation, or
10 exclusion. It does not purport to divest the district court of jurisdiction in habeas cases that do
11 not challenge the final order of removal, as, for example, when a petitioner only challenges the
12 legality of his or her detention following issuance of a final order of removal.

13 The instant petition does not appear on its face to directly challenge the final order of
14 removal to which Petitioner is currently subject. The claim or claims in the petition are
15 contained in an attachment that consists of a lengthy chronology and arguments by Petitioner. In
16 that attachment, Petitioner argues that her continued detention is improper. (Doc. 1, attach., pp.
17 5-6).

18 Subsequently, Petitioner filed a series of motions in which she has maintained that ICE
19 has pressured her to sign removal documents to Hungary, despite her insistence that she cannot
20 speak Hungarian and cannot read the documents she is being asked to sign. (E.g., Docs. 5, 9,
21 21). Petitioner steadfastly maintains that she is from Russia, not Hungary. (Doc. 17).

22 From the foregoing, it is not clear to the Court that Petitioner is challenging a final order
23 of removal, deportation, or exclusion. It does appear that Petitioner's allegations that the fact and
24 circumstances of her present detention are unlawful and unreasonable are based on circumstances
25 subsequent to and distinct from the final order of removal.

26 However, in order for the Court to make an informed decision regarding whether the
27 instant petition falls within the ambit of the Real ID Act of 2005, and since it does not appear that
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1 the parties are prepared to stipulate to a transfer to the Ninth Circuit, the Court will order the
2 parties to file briefs explaining their respective positions on the issue.

3 **ORDER**

4 _____ Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent must within fifteen (15) days
5 from the date of service of this order, file a brief addressing whether and in what respects the
6 Real ID Act of 2005 is applicable to the instant petition. Petitioner will have ten (10) days after
7 the date of service of Respondent's brief to file a brief in opposition to Respondent, should
8 Petitioner disagree with Respondent's position. The Court will make its decision regarding
9 transfer to the Ninth Circuit based upon the parties' briefs.

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11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12 **Dated: June 24, 2005**
13 j6eb3d

14 **/s/ Theresa A. Goldner**
15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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